

Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 28th, 2011

- Today's Prophecy Update will be part four in a study of the pre-tribulation rapture, and why it must happen before the seven year tribulation.
- The "seven" reasons "why" the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ has to happen before the "seven" year tribulation begins are as follows:

REVELATION TO US

AFFECT UPON US

PURITY OF US

TRUMPETS FOR US

UNIFORMITY WITH US

RESPONSIBILITY ON US

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM US

- Today we'll see the fourth reason in our seven letter acronym. The rapture must happen before the tribulation because of the Trumpets for us.

Leviticus 23:23-25 NKJV (23) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (24) "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath-*rest*, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. (25) You shall do no customary work *on it*; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.' "

- This is the fifth of seven feasts of Israel, the "Feast of Trumpets," in which they would blow the shofar which was to be a holy convocation.
- It's important that we understand what a holy "convocation" is and what this trumpet sound communicated in this calling of God's people.

miqra' (mik-row'); from OT:7121; something called out, i.e. a public meeting (the act, the persons, or the place); also a rehearsal: KJV - assembly, calling, convocation, reading.

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.)

- This assembling together was, as one called it, a holy convocation, for either a relocation, or a confrontation of, and with God calling His people.
- On the first day of the seventh month of Tishri on the Jewish ceremonial calendar the trumpet was blown and it began the Feast of Trumpets.
- It's for this reason, the Feast of Trumpets, or Rosh Hashanah, is a picture of the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ. It's for our "relocation."

- The trumpets in the scriptures are sounded to bring God's people up to meet Him, or to assemble together as God's people for a wedding.
- The trumpets in the scriptures are also sounded for another reason, and that's to assemble God's people for a confrontation or battle in war.
- This is why there were two trumpets, both of which served two purposes. We have the details of these two trumpets in the book of Numbers.

Numbers 10:1-7 NKJV And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: (2) "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. (3) When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. (4) But if they blow *only* one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you. (5) When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. (6) When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys. (7) And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but not sound the advance.

- In both the Old and New Testament we have two trumpets for two different purposes. There is the first trumpet and there's the last trumpet.
- The first trumpet is for Israel, and the last trumpet is for us. We see this first trumpet in the Old Testament for Israel in the book of Exodus.

Exodus 19:16-17 NKJV Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled. (17) And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

- The last trumpet is for us and we see this in the Apostle Paul's first letter to the church of Corinth where he describes the rapture of the church.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NKJV (51) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- Before we go any further, I would be grossly remiss were I not to address the trumpet of Revelation 10:7. Some believe it to be the last trumpet.

Revelation 10:7 NIV But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."

- The reason this isn't the last trumpet for us during the tribulation is because it's an angel that sounds the trumpet. It isn't the trumpet call of God.
- In other words, there's two distinct trumpets in scripture, one of which is the trumpets of angels, and the other of which is the trumpet of God.
- The trumpet call of angels is for Israel, and the trumpet call of God is for the church. This trumpet in Revelation during the tribulation is for Israel.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV (16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Matthew 24:20-22 and 31 NIV (20) Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. (21) For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. (22) If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. ... (31) And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.